

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. [Original] System for acquiring data of an eye of a patient comprising a diagnosis unit for acquiring diagnosis data of the eye and
an iris recognition unit further comprising an image pick-up unit for acquiring an image of the eye and comparing means for acquiring an iris code of the eye by comparing grey values of at least two individual pixels at or in the neighbourhood of a plurality of positions.
2. [Original] The system of claim 1, further comprising processing means for determining coordinates of a pupil center of the eye.
3. [Original] System of claim 1 or 2, wherein the diagnosis data and/or the iris code and/or the center of the pupil of the eye are related to a common coordinate system.
4. [Currently Amended] System of ~~any of~~ claims 1 ~~or to 3~~ 2, further comprising storage means for storing at least two of the following data, the diagnosis data, the iris code, the coordinates of the pupil center when the pupil is not dilated and the coordinates of the pupil center when the pupil is dilated, a data designating a patient and a respective eye and data regarding the acquisition of data.
5. [Currently Amended] System of ~~any of~~ claims 1 ~~to 4 or 2~~, wherein the diagnosis unit comprises an aberrometer which preferably acquires diagnosis data of the eye of a patient who is sitting up right, ~~preferably a Zywave aberrometer~~.
6. [Currently Amended] System of ~~any of~~ claims 1 ~~to 5 or 2~~ wherein the comprising an image pick-up unit, preferably is a video camera which is preferably working in the infrared region.
7. [Currently Amended] System of ~~any of~~ claims 4 ~~to 6~~, wherein the storage means comprises means for reading and writing data on a data carrier, ~~preferably a chip card~~.
8. [Original] System for aligning and for tracking of an eye of a patient with reference to an ophthalmic

unit for performing a diagnosis and/or treatment of the eye comprising means for providing a previously acquired iris code of an eye of a patient, an iris recognition unit further comprising an image pick-up unit for acquiring an image of the eye and comparing means for acquiring an iris code by comparing grey values of at least two individual pixels at or in the neighbourhood of a plurality of positions of the eye under investigation as a present iris code, and a comparator for comparing the present iris code with a previously acquired iris code and providing a comparison result, wherein said ophthalmic unit performs said diagnosis and/or treatment of the eye when said comparison result is greater than an identification determining level.

9. [Original] System of claim 8, wherein said comparator comprises means for performing correlation between said present iris code and said previously acquired iris code, wherein said present iris code is related to a first rotational position and said previously acquired iris code is related to a second rotational position,

a modification unit for modifying the present iris code and/or the previously acquired iris code such the relative position between the first rotational position and the second rotational position is changed, and a determining unit for determining the highest correlation between said present iris code and said previously acquired iris code being modified over a predetermined range of relative rotation.

10. [Original] System of claim 9, wherein the eye under investigation is aligned to the ophthalmic unit by said rotational shift corresponding to the highest correlation between the present iris code and the previously acquired iris code.

11. [Original] System of any of claims 8 to 10, further comprising processing means for determining coordinates of a pupil center of the eye under investigation, wherein the present coordinates of the pupil center are used in aligning and tracking the eye with reference to the ophthalmic unit.

12. [Currently Amended] System of any of claims 8 to ~~10~~, wherein the ophthalmic unit comprises a refractive surgery apparatus comprising an excimer laser for correction of refractive defects of the eye.

13. [Original] System of claim 12, wherein said refractive surgery system performs the correction of refracting defects based on diagnosis data previously acquired for said eye.

14. [Currently Amended] System of ~~any of claims 8 to 13~~12, comprising a first image pick-up unit having a high resolution for providing an image of the eye to the iris recognition unit and preferably a second image pick-up unit being preferably faster than said first image pick-up unit for providing images being used for tracking the eye with reference to the ophthalmic unit.

15. [Original] System of claim 14, wherein said first and said second image pick-up unit being arranged at an angle to each other such that the respective images taken of the eye matches at a predetermined height position of the eye under investigation.

16. [Original] System of claim 15, further comprising control means for performing the diagnosis and/or treatment of the eye by said ophthalmic unit when a match between said images of the first and said second image pick-up units is detected.

17. [Currently Amended] Iris recognition unit ~~especially~~for use in a system for aligning and for tracking of an eye of a patient with reference to an ophthalmic unit for performing a diagnosis and/or treatment of the eye, said unit~~according to any of claims 1 to 16~~ comprising an image pick-up unit for acquiring an image of the eye, an image processing unit for determining iris information at a plurality of positions of the image of the eye and a generating unit further comprising comparing means for generating an iris code based on said iris information at said plurality of positions of the image of the eye by comparing grey values of at least two individual pixels at or in the neighbourhood of said plurality of positions.

18. [Original] Iris recognition unit of claim 17 comprising means for determining the iris/pupil border and/or the iris/limbus border, wherein said image processing unit determines the plurality of positions based on the relative position of the iris/pupil border with respect to the iris/limbus border.

19. [Original] Iris recognition unit of claim 18, wherein said relative position of said iris/pupil border with respect to said iris/limbus border is calculated based on a deviation of a center point of the iris/pupil border with respect to a center point of the iris/limbus border, and/or the length of a radial line starting from a certain point at the iris/pupil border and ending at a corresponding point at the iris/limbus border.

20. [Currently Amended] Iris recognition unit of ~~any of claims 17 to 19~~17, wherein said image processing unit comprises comparing means for comparing grey values of at least two individual pixels at or in the neighbourhood at each respective position of said plurality of positions.
21. [Currently Amended] Iris recognition unit of claim 2018, wherein said comparing means compares the grey values of pixels present in at least one of the following regions, an inner ring surrounding a particular position, a middle ring, surrounding said inner ring, an outer ring surrounding said middle ring, the region above and below a horizontal axis and the region on the left side and the right hand side of a vertical axis going through said particular position.
22. [Original] Iris recognition unit of claim 21, wherein said comparing means compares an average of the grey values of pixels within one of said regions with the average of grey values of pixels within a neighbouring region and provides the binary result for each comparison based on whether the difference of the respective average values is greater or smaller than a threshold value.
23. [Original] Iris recognition unit of any of claims 20 to 22, wherein said generating unit receives the comparison results as a set of binary values, preferably six binary values for each particular position and provides said iris code by arranging said sets of binary values in a predetermined order corresponding to the relative positions used in the image processing unit.
24. [Original] Iris recognition unit of claim 23, wherein the iris code comprises said sets of binary values in the form of at least one matrix.
25. [Currently Amended] Method for acquiring data of an eye of a patient comprising: acquiring diagnosis data of the eye, acquiring an image of the eye and acquiring an iris code by comparing grey values of at least two individual pixels at or in the neighbourhood of a plurality of positionsusing a system according to ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~.
26. [Currently Amended] Method for aligning and/or tracking of an eye of a patient with reference to an ophthalmic unit for performing a diagnosis and/or treatment of the eye comprising: providing a previously acquired iris code of an eye of the patient,

acquiring an image of the eye and acquiring an iris code by comparing grey values of at least two individual pixels at or in the neighbourhood of a plurality of positions of the eye under investigation as a present iris code,

comparing the present iris code with the previously acquired iris code and providing a comparison result, and

performing said diagnosis and/or treatment of the eye when said comparison result is greater than an identification determining level using a system according to any of claims 8 to 16.

27. [Currently Amended] Method for iris recognition comprising:

acquiring an image of the eye,

determining iris information at a plurality of positions of the image of the eye, and

generating an iris code based on said iris information at said plurality of positions of the image of the eye by comparing grey values of at least two individual pixels at or in the neighbourhood of said plurality of positions using a system according to any of claims 17 to 23.

28. [New] The method of claim 25 further comprising determining coordinates of a pupil center of the eye and relating the diagnosis data, the iris code and the center of the pupil to a common coordinate system.

29. [New] The method of claim 25 further comprising storing at least two of the following data, the diagnosis data, the iris code, the coordinates of the pupil center when the pupil is not dilated and the coordinates of the pupil center when the pupil is dilated, a data designating a patient and a respective eye and data regarding the acquisition of data.

30. [New] The method of claim 26 wherein comparison of the present iris code with the previously acquired iris code comprises relating the present iris code to a first rotational position and relating the previous iris code to a second rotational position, modifying the present iris code and/or the previously acquired iris code such that the relative position between the first rotational position and the second rotational position is changed, and determining the highest correlation between said present iris code and said previously acquired iris code as modified over a predetermined range of relative rotation.

31. [New] The method of claim 30 further comprising aligning the eye to the ophthalmic unit by a rotational shift corresponding to the highest correlation between the present iris code and the previously acquired iris code.
32. [New] The method of claim 27 further comprising determining the iris/pupil border and the iris/limbus border, wherein the plurality of positions are determined based on the relative position of the iris/pupil border with respect to the iris/limbus border.
33. [New] The method of claim 32 wherein relative position of said iris/pupil border with respect to said iris/limbus border is calculated based on a deviation of a center point of the iris/pupil border with respect to a center point of the iris/limbus border, and/or the length of a radial line starting from a certain point at the iris/pupil border and ending at a corresponding point at the iris/limbus border.
34. [New] The method of claim 33 wherein the grey values of pixels compared are selected from at least one of the following regions: an inner ring surrounding a particular position, a middle ring, surrounding said inner ring, an outer ring surrounding said middle ring, the region above and below a horizontal axis and the region on the left side and the right hand side of a vertical axis going through said particular position.
35. [New] The method of claim 34 wherein an average of the grey values of pixels within one of said regions is compared with the average of grey values of pixels within a neighbouring region providing a binary result for each comparison based on whether the difference of the respective average values is greater or smaller than a threshold value.
36. [New] The method of claim 35 comprising receiving the comparison results as a set of binary values and generating said iris code by arranging said sets of binary values in a predetermined order corresponding to the relative positions used in the image processing unit.
37. [New] The method of claim 36 wherein six binary values are received for each particular position.